



Living within our

Ecological and Financial Means

The Green Party is committed to a public sector that provides high-quality health care, education and social programs while living within our financial and ecological means.

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A. Financing Quality Public Services

We do not support simplistic policies that cut public services to reduce budget deficits while continuing with unjust taxation policies. While past governments only paid attention to the financial accounts, we also consider the ecological balance sheet. We are not getting ahead if we degrade our air, water and land, and endanger wildlife, to reduce fiscal deficits.

A Green Government would:

- ✔ **Institute a public inquiry** into the sustainability of the province's financial and ecological deficits. Its mandate would be to recommend a strategy to reduce our long term financial and ecological debt. It would examine the fairness of our tax system; the lost revenue from preferential tax treatment of capital gains, large inheritances, and off-shore accounts; and a means to phase-out the double tax on non-owner occupied

properties. It would also analyze the impacts of non-renewable and renewable resource tax policies on the over-exploitation of limited ecological resources.

- ✔ Remove the industrial **property tax exemption** for crude oil storage tanks, and add industrial machinery and equipment as taxable property.
- ✔ Establish **border tolls** on the four-lane highways.
- ✔ Petition the federal government to increase the **per capita health transfer to New Brunswick** to reflect the needs of our aging population.
- ✔ Produce government budgets that are **financially responsible**, expecting budget deficits during difficult periods and surpluses at other times.



Our Pathway for Change

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- ✔ Require unbudgeted expenditures to be reviewed by the **Legislature's all-party Standing Committee on Public Accounts**, the recommendations from which would be voted on by the Legislature.
- ✔ Require the Department of Finance to develop and publish a **tax expenditure account** to track losses in provincial revenues associated with tax cuts, tax breaks, deferrals and credits in the New Brunswick tax system.
- ✔ Harmonize our **corporate income tax rate** with Nova Scotia and PEI.
- ✔ Increase royalty rates for all renewable and non-renewable resources in the province to capture their full economic value, and establish a **New Brunswick Heritage Fund** where all non-renewable royalties will be deposited, with the NB government transferring only five percent in any one year to general revenues.
- ✔ Increase the **Auditor General's budget** over three years to be comparable to that of Nova Scotia for the size of our provincial budget.



4 Share the Wealth, Extend a Hand

B. Make Public Transportation a Public Service

Mobility is one of the main barriers to gaining and keeping employment, accessing affordable housing, and participating in the community, especially in rural areas. Public transportation is also a central element of a climate change action plan.

A Green Government would:

- ✔ Set goals for **increasing public transportation** ridership across the province to increase markets for public transportation and reduce carbon pollution.
- ✔ Direct the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to **develop and maintain a convenient and affordable public transportation system** within and between regions not served by commercial services, including buses, marine and river ferries (restoring the Gagetown-Jemseg run and establishing a year-round ferry to Campobello Island), and rail⁹. Public transportation planning would be the responsibility of Regional Service Commissions, and could incorporate existing assets such as school buses, nursing home shuttles, and dial-a-ride services.
- ✔ Replace **bridges with temporary crossings** when they wash out so no one is left without alternate transportation routes in the event of floods or forest fires.
- ✔ **Subsidize existing municipal transit systems** to allow them to expand their services and keep costs low.



⁹ To be funded by border tolls on the four lane highways and by carbon pollution levies.



Investing in **Education and Culture**

Education and culture should be seen as investments in the future – of individuals, families, communities and the province.